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Amidst poverty, pain, and disease,
And other such matters as these,
We will swallow our pique and our pride
For a while and attempt to decide
The quarrel that led to the war—
Which might have been settled before
But for the old fable, grown hoary,
Of national honor and glory."

Ye statesmen, ye wise politicians,
Review, just for once, the conditions;
Is it thus that a sovereign state
Her honor must vindicate?

Degenerate Sons?

BY JOHN COLLINS.

Land of our fathers, who, with firm reliance
On Justice, Truth and Honor, pledged their name,
Shall we, as sons degenerate, fling defiance
On noble aims, and desecrate thy fame?

Shall love of conquest stain our starry banner,
As war's sad victims mark our new career,
Shall distant climes behold our foul dishonor
And henceforth view us with distrust and fear?

Shall we, though called perchance a Christian nation,
Assume a right that Providence ne'er gave,
To stir by menace or by provocation
Millions of men to warfare and a grave?

Can hostile deeds advance the sacred mission
Of Gospel truth in those benighted lands,
Or teach the savage tribes that their condition
Is best when firmly bound by war's red hands?

No! naught but peace can still the rage or terror
Of dusky warriors in those distant seas,
Or save our nation from its hasty error
To bind a people by its stern decrees.

Let not Columbia vainly strive for glory
Of arms victorious o'er a feeble foe,
Nor infamy defile, by conflict gory,
The record that a coming age may show.

He, who hath said, in words of proclamation,
"Vengeance is mine—I surely will repay,"
Shall yet be known in every land and nation
Where war and violence have held their sway.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Letters to the Editor.

To the Editor of the ADVOCATE OF PEACE.

I have been looking over your last issue to-day and am glad to read that the people of Holland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark are unwilling to leave the acceptance of the Czar's excellent suggestions to their governments alone.

The above named powers are neutral, or rather we so think of them usually. They are *practically* neutral, as

is also Belgium, Portugal, Switzerland and Roumania, and as Greece, Serbia and Bulgaria should be.

Now if the government of Russia could make up its mind to renounce all intention of adding any further territory to the Czardom, and then place itself at the head of the neutral states, calling on Turkey and China to become such, also Greece, Serbia, Bulgaria, Italy, Roumania, Siam, Persia and Afghanistan, as well as Mexico and the leading South American republics, I think Russia could thus compel this country and England to give up all further aggressive efforts.

I cannot help but think that this is the right way out, the creation of a peaceful federation of neutral powers, and at the same time the practical disarmament of these by employing the army of each member of the Confederacy in railroad building or other industrial work, whilst not yet giving up the army organization.

I hope there may be some way of reaching the Czar, before the Disarmament Conference sits, with the fact that this country is not altogether in the hands of jingoes.

Respectfully,

B. F. LEEDS.

DORCHESTER, MASS., Feb. 9, 1899.

An Early Advocate of Peace.

BY DR. M. L. HOLBROOK.

Dr. Benjamin Rush, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was often called the American Sydenham, also the father of American medicine. He was made Surgeon General in the war of the American Revolution, and became the most distinguished practitioner of his time. His essay on the cure of consumption by horseback riding is still excellent reading. He advocated a higher education for women, was opposed to capital punishment, objected to the administration of oaths on religious ground, and was explicit in his condemnation of the use of tobacco.

But it was not of these that I designed to speak, but of his project for universal peace. He proposed that there should be a Peace office and filled by one who should be the Secretary of State for Peace. This official, he proposed, should have control of all the free schools in every state, and his efforts and influence so far as possible were to be to subdue the passion for war, which education and human depravity have made universal by familiarity with instruments of death and by great military displays on so many occasions. Through his influence militia laws were to be repealed, military dress and titles laid aside, as well as all military reviews which tend to lend a charm to war by hiding its evils and its horrors. In this way Dr. Rush hoped that the spirit of vanity and hate which leads to war would die out, and that all questions of dispute between nations would be settled, as disputes between individuals are settled, in a reasonable manner, or by diplomacy or arbitration.

If this plan, even for schools, had been carried out, we should not have had, let us hope, as has just happened in a Military Convention, the president of a great University, President MacCracken, advocating military education in every school, and saying:

"If military drill were confined to those only from fourteen to eighteen years of age, we should have an army of 3,000,000 and over. The main question is, Shall at